

WHITSTABLE,

February 11th, 1908.

To the Chairman and Members of the Whitstable Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have to report that the Births registered within the Urban District during the year 1907 amounted to 191—87 males and 104 females—4 were illegitimate; the deaths were 112—

17	being	under	1	year	of	age,
9	upwards	of	1	and	under	5,
3	„	5	„	15,		
2	„	15	„	25,		
38	„	25	„	65,		
43	„	65	years	of	age,	

in the latter number were included 14 of persons of upwards of 80, and 2 upwards of 90.

Eight Inquests were held—4 in cases resulting from Accident, 2 from Suicide, and 2 of Sudden Death ; there were 3 deaths from Measles, 5 from Whooping Cough, 3 from Influenza, 1 from Enteritis, 10 from Phthisis—4 of these being of Non-Residents,— 3 of young children from other Tubercular Diseases, 5 from Bronchitis, 10 from Pneumonia, 4 from other Diseases of the Respiratory organs, 3 from Premature Births, 21 from Heart Diseases—4 of these of non-residents and 34 from all other causes. 7 residents died in the Blean Union Infirmary.

Seventeen deaths of non-residents altogether were included in the 112 registered, making the nett number 102.

The Birth Rate was 24.5.

The Death Rate ^{13.1}~~31.1~~ per 1000.

The Mortality of Infants under 1 year of age, 89 per 1000 Births Registered.

Of infectious Diseases notified, 4 were of Diphtheria, 3 of Erysipelas, 2 of Scarlet Fever, and 2 of Enteric Fever ; 1 case of Diphtheria and 1 of Scarlet Fever were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

In the early part of the year there was a considerable prevalence of Whooping Cough and in the Summer many visitors appeared to have brought children suffering from this Malady into the Town.

Measles appeared to have originated in some children who had been taken to the hop-gardens in September and so prevalent was it at the end of October and throughout November that it was considered advisable to close the Infants' Schools for one month. The District is now quite free.

Thirty-two new houses were built during the year.

The District is generally flat towards the sea, rising gradually inland and bounded on the land side by elevations ; the soil is of clay.

A large proportion of the Inhabitants are engaged in the Oyster and other Fisheries ; many are employed in Sailing Vessels and Barges with the work at the Harbour incidental thereto ; some are engaged in the Building Trade ; mostly occupied in out-door work, the male population is generally healthy.

The house accommodation for the working-classes is generally good, the greater portion having a considerable amount of back garden and the surroundings are mostly clean. The Council exercise supervision over the erection of all new houses.

The Council have the full control of the Sewerage and Drainage which is discharged by outfalls into the Sea,

The system of excrement disposal is by water closets, and appears to be satisfactory.

The removal of House Refuse is regularly effected in covered vans and is conveyed to waste land at a distance from the town.

The Water Supply is principally derived from the Water Company's Mains into which it is pumped from two Artesian Wells: it is periodically analysed and has been found satisfactory. Some Houses are still supplied from Wells which are carefully noted in the event of any suspicious illness arising among any persons using such Water.

There are no Lodging Houses, Offensive Trades, Textile Factories or underground Bakehouses: the Slaughterhouses, Dairies, Cow-sheds and Bakehouses are frequently visited, these as well as the Workshops and the few existing Factories have been found satisfactory.

The Public Elementary Schools are comparatively modern and those which are of more ancient construction have been improved and brought up to the requirements of the Educational Authority: the sanitary condition and water supply are satisfactory; in the event of illness or suspicion of infectious disease the teachers at once apprise a medical man of the fact.

The Byelaw with respect to Tents and Vans has been adopted and is now in force in the District, this was found necessary in consequence of a nuisance arising from the frequent occupation of a small field adjoining the main road by steam circuses and other noisy exhibitions: a few cases only of other nuisances have arisen to which the attention of the Sanitary Inspector has been called, and as they have been promptly remedied it has not been found necessary to take any legal proceedings.

The Notification of Diseases Act was adopted by the Council in December 1894 and cases of Infectious Diseases, where the patients cannot be isolated and properly nursed in their own homes, are removed to the Hospital at Herne; the Council have a Disinfecting Chamber and Isolation Hospital for Small-Pox cases about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Town, but since its erection no case has occurred in the District; all Houses where Infectious Diseases have occurred are afterwards disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector.

The Sanitary condition of the Workshops and Workplaces is satisfactory, as being generally on a small scale and but few hands employed, there is little risk of overcrowding and there being no instance in which both sexes are employed in one building, section 22 of the Public Health Acts (amendment) Act 1890 does not apply to the district.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

Jno. W. Hayward

Medical Officer of Health.

